

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /063 W

-----050904 092109Z /70

R 091230Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 493

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ECON, SE, SA

SUBJECT: KHASHOGGI REPRESENTATIVE HERE TO ASSESS POST-COUP
INVESTMENT CLIMATE

REF: VICTORIA 259

1. U.S. BUSINESS CONSULTANT, EDWARD MOSS, CALLED ON CHARGE
AUGUST 8 AFTER MEETING EARLIER IN DAY WITH PRESIDENT RENE.
MOSS SAID HE WAS IN SEYCHELLES PRIMARILY TO MAKE PRELIMINARY
ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER SAUDI ARABIAN ENTREPRENEUR ADNAN
KHASHOGGI SHOULD PROCEED WITH LARGE-SCALE INVESTMENTS IN TOURIST
SECTOR HERE. MOSS CURRENTLY REPRESENTS KHASHOGGI'S INTERESTS
IN KENYA. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF MT. KENYA SAFARI CLUB, IN
WHICH, HE SAID, KHASHOGGI IS NOW SIZEABLE SHAREHOLDER.

2. MOSS SAID HIS 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RENE HAD GONE
EXCEEDINGLY WELL. RENE REPORTEDLY TOLD HIM THAT, DESPITE NUMEROUS
"MISTAKES" COMMITTED BY KHASHOGGI IN HIS DEALINGS THUS FAR,
NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME HIS (KHASHOGGI'S) INVESTMENT AND
INVOLVEMENT IN TOURIST SECTOR.

3. COMMENT: ASSUMING THIS IS ACCURATE RENDITION OF WHAT
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RENE SAID, IT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HIS AS UATISM.

SEYCHELLES NEEDS NEW HOTEL CONSTRUCTION TO STIMULATE CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY AND TO INCREASE NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE TO MEET PRO-
JECTED GROWTH IN TOURIST DEMAND. PRIOR TO COUP, KHASHOGGI'S
CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH DEPOSED PRESIDENT MANCHAM HAD BEEN
SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE TO RENE (SEE REFTEL) AS

PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, RENE APPEARS WILLING TO SET ASIDE THIS
KIND OF CONCERN IN INTEREST OF NATION'S DEVELOPMENT. IT, OF
COURSE, REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF KHASHOGGI AND OTHER MAJOR POTENTIAL
SAUDI INVESTORS SUCH AS PRINCE TALAL WILL GO THROUGH WITH THEIR
INVESTMENT PLANS. DESPITE PROFESSIONS OF WELCOME, THEY MAY NO
LONGER BE OFFERD SAME ATTRACTIVE CONCESSIONS AS WERE AVAILABLE
WHEN MANCHAM WAS IN POWER.
FELDER

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Message Attributes

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